

Case 3311***Bathyporeia elegans* Watkin, 1938 (Crustacea, Amphipoda): proposed conservation**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the current usage of the widely used specific name *Bathyporeia elegans* Watkin 1938, for an amphipod, which is threatened by the senior homonym *Bathyporeia elegans* Crawford, 1937.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Crustacea; Amphipoda; PONTOPOREIIDAE: *Bathyporeia elegans*.

1. In the 1930's, E.E. Watkin was working on a revision of the genus *Bathyporeia* and discovered a new species, which he intended to describe as *Bathyporeia elegans*. He apparently discussed this discovery with his colleague G.I. Crawford, who then introduced the name *Bathyporeia elegans* in an ecological paper (Crawford, 1937, p. 639). His puzzling account runs as follows: '*Bathyporeia elegans* Sars is a name applied to a slender form of *B. pelagica* with less well-developed eyes. The specimens of this genus from the finer sand of Cawsand Bay were of this form, but it is doubtful if it is a distinct species'.

2. G.O. Sars never described *Bathyporeia elegans* but did describe *Bathyporeia gracilis* Sars, 1891, which is a rare, valid species (Sars, 1891; Vader, 1970; d'Udekem d'Acoz, 2004).

3. One year after the publication of Crawford's paper, Watkin (1938, p. 222) published a conventional description of *Bathyporeia elegans*, as '*B. elegans*, nom. nov.', the term 'nom. nov.' alluding to the fact that the name *Bathyporeia pelagica* (Bate, 1857) had often been erroneously applied to Watkin's species.

4. Watkin (1938, p. 222, footnote) referred to Crawford's paper, as follows: 'Mr. G. I. Crawford desires me to state that his reference to *B. elegans*, this *Journal* Vol. XXI, p. 639, line 4, is an error and should be read *B. gracilis*.' However, Watkin (1938) apparently did not accept Crawford's identification because on page 225, he indicated '*B. elegans* Crawford, 1937a, p. 639' in the synonymy of *Bathyporeia tenuipes* Meinert, 1877, and gave no comments in his account of *B. gracilis* Sars, 1891. Crawford's (1937) morphological account is ambiguous, and could agree either with *B. gracilis* Sars, 1891 or with *B. tenuipes* Meinert, 1877, but this uncertainty has no nomenclatural consequences. The important point is that *Bathyporeia elegans* Crawford, 1937 is not the same species as *B. elegans* Watkin, 1938.

5. The new species of Watkin (1938) is common. From 1938 onwards, there has been universal acceptance of Watkin's name, which has been used in a large number of publications in various languages, for example Enckell (1980). Gurjanova (1951),

Lincoln (1979), Schellenberg (1942) and Toulmond (1966). An additional list of 45 references is held by the Commission Secretariat. Crawford's name *Bathyporeia elegans* has not been used, to our knowledge, since its first publication.

6. Crawford (1937), who must have been aware of the (then unpublished) name *Bathyporeia elegans* Watkin, clearly intended to write *Bathyporeia gracilis* Sars, but as a lapsus used the name *elegans* instead of *gracilis*, resulting in the combination '*Bathyporeia elegans* Crawford', which is an available name and a senior homonym of *B. elegans* Watkin. The copy of Crawford's paper (1937, p. 639) in the General Library of the Natural History Museum, London, contains the following hand-written marginal note alongside line 4 in which the word *elegans* has been crossed out: '*gracilis* / (error on my part GIC)'.

7. d'Udekem d'Acoz (2004, p. 33, figs. 4–8) designated and figured as lectotype of *Bathyporeia elegans* Watkin a female specimen, no. ZMO F2656 in the Zoologisk Museum i Oslo from Ognebuk, Jaederen, Southern Norway.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress the specific name *elegans* Crawford, 1937, as published in the binomen *Bathyporeia elegans*, for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *elegans* Watkin, 1938, as published in the binomen *Bathyporeia elegans* and as defined by the lectotype designated by d'Udekem d'Acoz (2004);
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *elegans* Crawford, 1937, as published in the binomen *Bathyporeia elegans* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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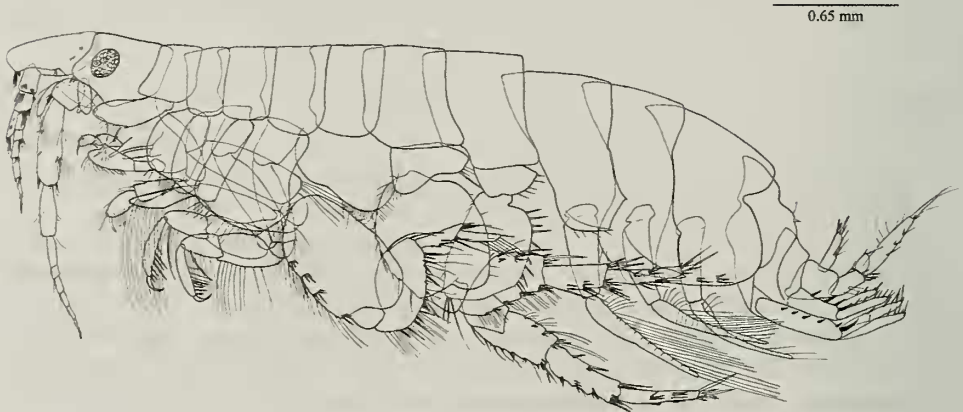
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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).



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